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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/683,532	01/16/2002	Victoria M.E. Bellotti	110143	7732

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EXAMINER	
CHOUDHURY, AZIZUL Q	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2145	

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/683,532	BELLOTTI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Azizul Choudhury	2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 May 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *16 January 2002* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

This office action is in response to the correspondence received on May 13, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakaguchi et al (US Pat No: US006594636B1) in view of Paul, JR et al (US Application No: US 20020169835A1), hereafter referred to as Sakaguchi and Paul, respectively.

1. With regards to claims 1 and 10, Sakaguchi teaches ~~through Paul~~, a method for transmitting workflow-enabled electronic mail message from a user of a workflow system to a recipient, comprising: creating an email message to the recipient by the user, the recipient who does not have access to the workflow system; determining a network address; embedding a link to the determined network address in the email message to the recipient; associating a process of the workflow system with the determined network address; and sending the email message having the link to the determined network address to the recipient, wherein the link provides the recipient with an access to the associated process of the workflow system

(Sakaguchi teaches an email based workflow design. In the design, workflow definitions (definitions define the work to be flowed and include the claimed network address within them, hence workflow definitions are equivalent to the claimed network addresses) are chosen (determined) in one of a number of ways to best suite the task at hand. In addition, since it is email based, the email must be created. Plus, Sakaguchi's design allows for workflow definitions and representations of the processes to be completed, to be accessed by the user (column 5, lines 19-24, Sakaguchi). While the use of links within emails is know, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul). It is obvious to one skilled in the art that a link in an email allows an email recipient to access data, even data that may not have been accessible otherwise.

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

Sakaguchi-Paul further teaches

2. With regards to claims 2 and 11, ~~Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, th~~e method wherein determining the network address comprises selecting the network address from a list of predefined network addresses

(Sakaguchi's design uses workflow definitions (equivalent to the claimed network addresses). These definitions are selectable from a list of predefined definitions (column 2, lines 50-63, Sakaguchi). However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

3. With regards to claims 3 and 12, Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, the method wherein determining the network address comprises generating the network address

(Sakaguchi's design uses workflow definitions (equivalent to the claimed network addresses). Sakaguchi's deign allows these definitions to be generated as claimed (column 2, line 64 – column 3, line 3, Sakaguchi). However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

4. With regards to claims 4 and 13, Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, the method wherein generating the network address comprises randomly or pseudo-randomly generating the network address

(Sakaguchi's design uses workflow definitions (equivalent to the claimed network addresses). Sakaguchi's design allows these definitions to be generated without being the same as previous ones (hence pseudo-randomly (since nothing in computing is truly randomly performed)) (column 2, line 64 –

column 3, line 3, Sakaguchi). However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

5. With regards to claims 5 and 14, Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, the method wherein generating the network address comprises generating the network address based on at least in part on information about at least one of at least the created email message, the recipient, the workflow process and the user

(Sakaguchi's design allows definitions to be derived from one or more definitions (column 2, lines 42-50, Sakaguchi). However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

6. With regards to claims 6 and 15, Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, the method further comprising associating the determined network address with the email message

(The claimed step of associating the network address (workflow definition) with the email message is inherent in Sakaguchi's design. However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the

use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

7. With regards to claims 7 and 16, Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, the method wherein associating the determined network address with the email message comprises associating an email address of the recipient to which the created email will be sent with the determined network address

(The claimed step of associating the network address (workflow definition) with the email message and sending it with the email message is inherent in Sakaguchi's design. However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the

teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

8. With regards to claims 8, 17, 18 and 19, Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, the method wherein: determining a network address comprises determining a plurality of different network addresses; and embedding a link to the determined network address into the email message to the recipient comprises embedding a plurality of links into the email message, each link being to one of the plurality of determined network addresses

(As stated, Sakaguchi's design uses workflow definitions which hold the network addresses. If multiple network addresses are necessary in the workflow, these inherently must be present within the workflow definitions. However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the

teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

9. With regards to claims 9 and 20, Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, the method wherein associating a process of the workflow system with the determined network address comprises associating a different state of the associated process of the workflow system with each of the plurality of determined network addresses

(Each of the claimed network addresses are known to be associated with different states of the workflow system. Each address links to a specific state of the workflow and a plurality of addresses link to a plurality of states of the workflow. Such features are inherent within email based workflow systems. However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the

teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

10. With regards to claim 21, Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, a method for accessing a workflow process using a workflow-enabled email message, comprising: receiving the workflow-enabled email message that includes a link to a network address associated with the workflow process, wherein the network address is specific to the workflow process and to the email message; selecting the link to access the network address, wherein, in response, the workflow system provides access to the workflow process

(Sakaguchi's workflow system is email based and hence the workflow definitions (network addresses) are sent by email. Being such, the email messages must be received as claimed and the workflow definitions (network addresses) must be used to access the state of the workflow process in need of attention by the recipient. The claimed traits are inherent within email based workflow systems. However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not

explicitly state the use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

11. With regards to claim 22, Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, the method further comprising: receiving a request to provide authentication from the workflow system in response to selecting the link; and providing the requested authentication to the workflow system, the workflow system denying access to the workflow process if the requested authentication is not valid

(The workflow is only sent to the selected user and each user address is unique in the system ensuring authentication (since emails systems require sign-in procedures to access emails) (column 4, line 53 – column 5, line 8, Sakaguchi). However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the

use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

12. With regards to claim 23, Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, a method for providing access to a workflow process in response to receiving a network address that is associated with the workflow process, comprising: receiving the network address from a user; determining if the user from which the network address is received is a valid user of that network address; and providing access to the user to the workflow process only if user from which the network address is received is determined to be a valid user of that network address

(Sakaguchi's workflow system is email based and hence the workflow definitions (network addresses) are sent by email. Being such, the email messages must be received as claimed and the workflow definitions (network addresses) must be used to access the state of the workflow process in need of attention by the recipient. The workflow is only sent to the selected user and each user address is unique in the system ensuring authentication (since emails systems require sign-in procedures to access emails) (column 4, line 53 – column 5, line 8, Sakaguchi). However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

13. With regards to claim 24, Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, the method wherein determining if the user from which the network address is received is a valid user of that network address comprises comparing an email address provided by the user to an email address associated with the network address for the user

(Means by which to check Ids are present within Sakaguchi's design (column 4, line 53 – column 5, line 8, Sakaguchi). However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

14. With regards to claim 25, Sakaguchi teaches through Paul, the method wherein determining the network address will not result in a single network address designated to different electronic messages '

(Sakaguchi's design allows emails to have reference Ids (Figure 3, Sakaguchi). These reference Ids ensure that the email messages relate to the same workflow. Hence, the design ensures that if the emails regarding a particular project are desired, different email messages will not be obtained, as claimed. However, Sakaguchi does not explicitly state the step of embedding a link within the email.

Paul teaches a design for an email communication system. Within the disclosure, Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul).

Both Sakaguchi and Paul disclose email-based designs. While Sakaguchi discloses an email design for workflow functionality, it does not explicitly state the

use of hyperlinks within the email message. Paul's disclosure does teach the use of hyperlinks within email messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Sakaguchi with those of Paul, to provide an email communications system, method and computer program (paragraph 4, Paul)).

Response to Remarks

The applicant's representative's amendment and remarks have been carefully reviewed but are not deemed fully persuasive. The claim amendments and remarks focus on a single issue, the assertion that the claimed invention's email embedded link allows the recipient to access data that was otherwise not accessible. The use of links within emails is well known in the art. This is proven within the Paul disclosure. Paul teaches an email message with a hyperlink embedded within it, linking the user to other data (paragraph 10, Paul). It is obvious to one skilled in the art that a link in an email allows an email recipient to access data, even data that may not have been accessible otherwise.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

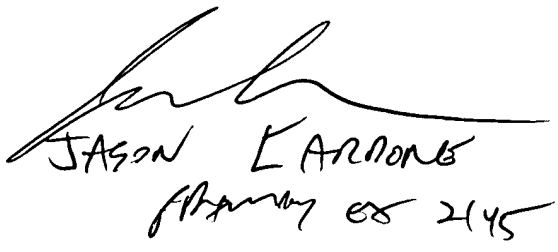
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Azizul Choudhury whose telephone number is (571) 272-3909. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on (571) 272-6159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



AC